

Nursing and the Future of Health Care: **Illinois Action Coalition**

How Nurses Can Contribute to Improved Health Care

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with AARP, initiated the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action* in late 2010. The initiative builds on *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, a landmark Institute of Medicine (IOM) report that provided a blueprint for transforming the nursing profession to improve health care and meet the needs of diverse populations.

Campaign for Action envisions a nation where every American has access to high-quality, patient-centered care in a health care system where nurses contribute as essential partners in achieving success. As the largest component of the U.S. health care workforce, nurses are integral to overcoming our current health care challenges. But there are neither enough nurses in practice nor enough with the advanced credentials and expertise that increasingly complex care requires. In many settings, nurses are not able to work to the full extent of their education and training, and too few hold leadership positions.

The *Campaign for Action* is working to:

1. strengthen nurse education and training;
2. enable nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
3. advance interprofessional collaboration to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
4. expand leadership ranks to ensure that nurses have voices on management teams, in boardrooms and during policy debates; and
5. improve health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

The campaign seeks to further the long-time efforts of many nurse leaders and nursing organizations, and to actively engage a wide range of health care providers; consumer leaders; prominent officials and groups representing government, business, academia and philanthropy. AARP will support state coalitions and stakeholder outreach through the Center to Champion Nursing in America. Its policy priorities will include nursing education, the role of nursing in improving rural health and increased access to advanced practice nurse care.

Fifteen state-based Action Coalitions—which reflect a broad-based approach to engaging diverse stakeholders—are implementing *Campaign for Action* efforts at the state and local levels. All 50 states are expected to be represented by 2012. In addition to addressing issues in their own states, Action Coalitions will contribute to the overall *Campaign for Action* by developing and disseminating best practices in the five objective areas.

For more on Campaign for Action and other health care workforce programs:

Campaign for Action: www.thefutureofnursing.org
RWJF: www.rwjf.org

Campaign for Action in Illinois

The Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (ILDCEO) jointly lead the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition and have partnered for five years on nursing workforce development programs. As members of the Center to Champion Nursing's Team Illinois, they have recruited coalition members and are building upon the Team's existing infrastructure and success.

The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition will expand on previous work to create a transformed health care workforce. The Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nurses and the Illinois Nurses Association are using the IOM report as leverage to remove barriers to care and increase access. The coalition is already seeing momentum in several areas:

- Efforts of the coalition's stakeholders have successfully increased nursing education capacity in Illinois by 20 percent over the past five years.
- The nurse managed clinics, funded by the state's Health Resources and Services Administration, are a best practice model that highlights nurse leadership.
- The coalition formed an interdisciplinary education steering committee to develop models of collaboration.

For more about the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition:

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